East Bay Nursery

Common Nasturtium

Tropaeolum majus



Common Nasturtium flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 12 inches

Spread: 24 inches

Spacing: 18 inches

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 9b

Other Names: Indian Cress, Mexican Cress, Peruvian Cress

Description:

A creeping, sprawling variety featuring interesting, round, green foliage with white veins; blooms are primarily orange-yellow with hints of red and gold, but color can be variable; a great annual or short-lived perennial in beds, containers or borders

Ornamental Features

Common Nasturtium features showy fragrant orange trumpet-shaped flowers with red overtones and gold throats held atop the stems from early summer to mid fall. The flowers are excellent for cutting. Its attractive round leaves remain bluish-green in color with distinctive white veins throughout the year.

Landscape Attributes

Common Nasturtium is an herbaceous evergreen perennial with a ground-hugging habit of growth. Its medium texture blends into the garden, but can always be balanced by a couple of finer or coarser plants for an effective composition.

This plant will require occasional maintenance and upkeep. Trim off the flower heads after they fade and die to encourage more blooms late into the season. It is a good choice for attracting bees, butterflies and hummingbirds to your yard, but is not particularly attractive to deer who tend to leave it alone in favor of tastier treats. Gardeners should be aware of the following characteristic(s) that may warrant special consideration;

- Insects
- Self-Seeding

Common Nasturtium is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- Rock/Alpine Gardens
- Border Edging
- General Garden Use
- Groundcover
- Container Planting
- Hanging Baskets

Planting & Growing

Common Nasturtium will grow to be about 12 inches tall at maturity, with a spread of 24 inches. When grown in masses or used as a bedding plant, individual plants should be spaced approximately 18 inches apart. Its foliage tends to remain dense right to the ground, not requiring facer plants in front. It grows at a fast rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 3 years. As an evegreen perennial, this plant will typically keep its form and foliage year-round.

This plant does best in full sun to partial shade. It prefers dry to average moisture levels with very well-drained soil, and will often die in standing water. This plant does not require much in the way of fertilizing once established. It is not particular as to soil type or pH. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. This species is not originally from North America.

Common Nasturtium is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor containers and hanging baskets. Because of its spreading habit of growth, it is ideally suited for use as a 'spiller' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination; plant it near the edges where it can spill gracefully over the pot. Note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.